

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 12, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-3 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claim 4 is currently pending in the application and is respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 9-4487 (hereinafter JP '487). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '487 in view of Kanke (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0070494). However, the Office Action indicated that claim 4 has been allowed.

As mentioned above, claims 1-3 have been canceled. As such, only allowed claim 4 remains pending in the application. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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